

Examples of Past Day to Serve Events

Honoring veterans:

- To commemorate Marylanders who lost their lives in service to their country, including on 9/11, Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center organized an event that began with a ceremony at the Maryland World War II Memorial in Annapolis. Later, volunteers participated in environmental service projects at the memorial and continued through Jonas Green Park at the foot of the Naval Academy Bridge.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Asbury United Methodist Church, along with The American Historical Society of Frederick and some other religious organizations, held a Day to Serve Project at Fairview Cemetery to honor our nation's veterans. Volunteers renovated Fairview Cemetery to keep it in good condition, and later placed American flags on their graves.

Improving the quality of life of the poor:

- Muslim Social Services sponsored a "Resources for a Better Tomorrow" event that provided resources and services to help to improve the quality of life of poor and homeless families and individuals in Baltimore City. The event provided free of charge hygiene kits, healthcare screenings, job and housing information, tee shirts, socks, hot meals, school supplies and backpacks.
- The Weinberg Housing and Resource Center hosted an event that helped those in need by serving dinner at the WHRC. Volunteers were given the opportunity to serve low-income residents at the center. Meals were served restaurant-style to provide volunteers with more interaction with the people they were helping.
- The Light House sponsored an event in which volunteers assisted with the daily lunch program for Annapolis Light House residents and those from the community in need of help. Volunteer groups distributed bagged lunches and served hot food to those in need.

Helping senior citizens:

- Neighbor Ride organized an event in which volunteers provided safe transportation to senior citizens who wanted to visit a loved one or visit a health care practitioner. Volunteers simply registered on Neighbor Ride's online database and chose senior-requested rides that were convenient to them. Volunteers had an orientation before they began, and then provided transportation to senior citizens as much as they could. Parents were also able to bring along their children when volunteering for a worthwhile, inter-generational experience.
- ShoreCorps/PALS Americorps – ShoreCorps and PALS Americorps sponsored an event with the goal of offering support for those aging and care-giving within their community.

Volunteers conducted door to door surveys to determine specific needs and contribution levels. The intent was to create “The Village People,” neighbors who were introduced to services and encouraged to gain needed assistance for family care. Volunteers were trained for the event in early September and began volunteering on September 11th.

Improving the lives of children:

- Living at The Hill Magazine sponsored an event for the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Volunteers weeded and cleaned up a children’s playground at the Grassroots Homeless Shelter. The goal was to give children a safe and clean environment for recreation.
- Montgomery College launched a book drive in observance of National Literacy Month and in support of President Obama’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge National Gathering on September 10th and 11th in Washington, DC. Montgomery College had its Book Drive for both occasions, in addition to Day to Serve. They invited college and community members to participate and donate books. Books were dropped off at Montgomery College’s three campuses to be given out to local public schools. The main goal was to empower students to read.

Cleaning up environmental pollution:

- The National Aquarium & National Park Service came up with a voluntary event to benefit the Fort McHenry wetland. Volunteers joined the Aquarium’s Conservation Team and planted trees, maintained the butterfly and rain garden, removed debris from the wetlands and more. Data collected from this event contributed to the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.
- The Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup sponsored an event to clean up and count trash collected during September and October, 2015. The Ocean Conservancy sponsors the worldwide cleanup of trash in rivers, bays and oceans, and during Day to Serve, volunteers selected their own site to clean in Maryland.
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation launched an event to help make the Choptank River cleaner and safer. Volunteers joined CBF at the Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park to help take out the trash. This was a family friendly event in which parents could bring their kids over to clean up a local river. Plus, the first 20 volunteers received a free t-shirt.

Paving out and cleaning nature trails:

- The Baltimore Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sponsored an event in which volunteers aged 12 and over joined the Barberry Brigade, and/or the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team at Catoctin Mountain Park. Volunteers, beginning at 9 a.m., spent a portion of the day working in the forest to help stabilize trails. Qualified National Park Service personnel led trail maintenance teams working to correct high priority trail issues. The Barberry Brigade gathered at 1 pm to contain the spread of alien

invasive plants that were re-populating the forest and squeezing out native plants that provide food and habitat for native animal species. Catoctin Mountain Park hoped to lessen the impact of problematic alien species through citizen involvement in the Barberry Brigade. Volunteers also learned how pulley systems made the process of pulling out plants less laborious and more fun and productive for all.

- The Maryland Park Service sponsored an event at the Pocomoke River State Park to discover plant and animal life in the community while taking action to provide sustainable public lands. Volunteers took part in an afternoon hike and volunteered along the Bald Cypress Nature Trail at the Milburn Landing Section of Pocomoke River State Park.

Educating Marylanders:

- ShoreCorps/PALS AmeriCorps sponsored a project for students to learn different ways to prepare vegetables from the garden. This project was a hand-on science project for 4th and 5th grade sciences classes at Pinehurst. First, students created posters and learned relevant information from their science teacher. At the Camden Community Garden, students and other volunteers picked vegetables, prepared the garden for the winter, and picked up trash.
- CASA, a group that advocates for Latinos and immigrants in Maryland, helped educate new immigrants to familiarize them with America and to help them get on track for the future. CASA provided legal advice completed the application form for naturalization (N-400), registered attendees for civic/history classes, and gave them financial education support, such as having a monthly family budget, and gaining access to a microloan to afford the USCIS naturalization fee.

Distributing food to the less fortunate:

- The Harford County Health Department participated in a food drive for Day to Serve 2015. Donations were dropped off to the Maryland Food Bank Edgewood location which then provided food to low-income residents in the area.
- For the past three years, the Maryland State Police has partnered with the Maryland Food Bank, an organization that distributes more than 100,000 meals per day, and with communities across the state, to distribute food to individuals and families in need. Throughout the month of September, in honor of Hunger Action Month, all State Police Barracks collected donations from their respective communities to provide to the Food Bank.
- Temple Oheb Shalom, Learning Ladder Daycare, and Ohr Chadash Academy hosted a Food Drive to collect non-perishable food items to share with less fortunate families at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Each year, more than 100 families benefit from the annual Food Drive.

Donating and organizing clothes for the less fortunate:

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints-Seneca Stake sponsored a shoe donation to benefit Rukundo International, a nonprofit dedicated to improving lives in Uganda. There was also a clothes donation where people gave away shirts, pants, and jackets they no longer needed to people in need. Remaining donations were sent to local charities.
- The Interfaith Clothing Center, a program of Interfaith Works, assigned volunteers with various duties throughout the day which included helping clean, arrange and maintain a safe environment for the clients and visitors, sorting and organizing donations, assisting clients, hanging clothes, and greeting donors. The Interfaith Works assists low-income Montgomery County residents through donated clothing, home goods, school supplies, new baby items, toys and books free of charge.